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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants AMEND claims 2-7 and 13 and CANCEL claim 1.

Applicants greatly appreciate the allowance of claims 14-19 by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 20 and 21 are allowable because they depend upon claim 14 which the Examiner has allowed.

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's indication that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 2 to recite all of the features of base claim 1 from which it depended and have amended claims 3-7 and 13 to depend upon claim 2.

Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement in the Patent Office on November 20, 2002. However, a copy of the Form PTO-1449 was not included in the outstanding Office Action issued on August 26, 2003. Applicants have provided herewith a copy of the IDS including Form PTO-1449, a copy of the stamped postcard receipt, and a copy of the references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the IDS and include a copy of the Initialed Form PTO-1449 in the next Office Action.

Claims 1 and 3-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaida (US Patent 5,684,436) in view of Kaida et al. (US Patent 5,627,425) and Okumura (US Patent 5,892,415) and Tanaka (JP 6-224681). Applicants have cancelled claim 1.

As noted above, Applicants have amended claim 2 to recite all of the features base claim 1 from which it depended and have amended claims 3-7 and 13 to depend upon claim 2.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaida in view of Kaida et al. and Okumura and Tanaka.

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Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the prior art of record, applied alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in claim 2 of the present application. Claims 3-13 depend upon claim 2 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 2 is allowable. The Examiner has allowed claims 14-19, and, as noted above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 20 and 21 are allowable because they depend upon claim 14 which the Examiner has allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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